

Memo to File

11-25-87

Re: Gasoline Odor-the Expressway Mart at 1821
W. Grand. (11-24-87 8:30 P.M.)

At approximately 8:30 P.M. on November 24, 1987 I received a page from the Springfield Fire Dept. stating that they had a strong gasoline odor in the Expressway Mart, 1821 W. Grand, and wanted the sanitary sewer checked to see if that might be a possible source of the odor. I arrived at the store at 8:45 P.M. and found a very strong gasoline odor present. The Fire Department had already closed down the store and City Utilities had removed the electric meter to prevent any explosions. I then went to our office to get our truck and explosion meter. After returning to the Expressway Mart I began to check the floor drains in the building. I obtained a reading of 30% L.E.L. in the womens bathroom, and a 0 - 10% in the mens bathroom. I then checked the drain in the storeroom and obtained a reading of 90 - 100%. I then checked the city sanitary sewer line M.H. 31 Wye Map Q-7. The manhole was surcharged to the point of overflowing. I then checked L.H. 32 Wye Map Q-7. It was surcharged to the bottom of the lid of the lamphole. I then went back to the store and took a reading, with the explosion meter, in the sampling manhole of the Expressway Mart. I obtained a reading of 30%. I then removed the lid and found the sampling manhole surcharged to within 6" of the lid. I took a reading between the top of the manhole and the bottom of the ring and obtained a 30% L.E.L. I then proceeded to take readings between the wall and the floor in the northeast corner of their building. There I received readings anywhere from 10 - 100% L.E.L. I took readings on the North side of their building on the outside along the parking lot and the wall and obtained readings as high as 30%. Fire Marshal Bill Crossland thought that the gasoline was apparently trapped under the building, as a result of a past spill from a leaky tank or a leak in their service lines. The gasoline could have also come from overfilling the tanks. It appears that the gasoline is following a trench that the electrical conduit was laid in. This trench goes from the gasoline pumps back to the northeast corner of the building. Mr. Charlie Howell and Jim Yoakum, owners of the Expressway Mart, called Mr Joe Montgomery, Montgomery Metal Craft, to have him come out and check out the problem. Mr. Montgomery installed the tanks and the pumps when the building was built 2 years ago. Mr. Montgomery arrived a approximately 11:30 P.M. Mr. Montgomery concurred with our thoughts that the gasoline was apparently in the ground and due to all of the rain, the ground water level increased therefore raising the gasoline along with it. He did not know if it was caused by a leak or spillage. All of the stores records showed no lost product. Mr. Howell and Mr. Yoakum wanted a trench dug outside the building to intercept the gasoline and maybe prevent it from entering their building. Mr. Montgomery called his backhoe operator immediately to have him come out and proceed with the work. I left the Expressway Mart at approximately 12:05 A.M. (11-25-87). Mr.

Montgomery was going to trench and try to pump down the water in the trench hoping to lower the readings in the building. He also stated that he was going to start testing service lines first thing in the morning. I told Mr. Howell that I would check again at about 7:15 A.M. in the morning to how the readings were doing and then let him know. (Mr. Howell's home phone number is 887-0439 and office phone is 865-6833.)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene Pabst", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene Pabst

cc: Mr. Randy Lyman, Supervisor of Sewer Surveillance and Billing
Mr. Chuck Griffin, Supervisor of Sewer Cleaning